

## Baraga Bump Fire – Media Information Sheet am. Day 4 – May 2, 2007

Very little rain fell yesterday on the Baraga Bump Fire, but the cloudy weather, cool temperatures, and high relative humidity made for good progress yesterday on fire suppression efforts. Containment has increased to an estimated 80%, with the remaining line problems still located in the rough terrain south of the Sturgeon River. As better information has come in on progress in this difficult terrain, the fire acreage has been revised down slightly to 1122 acres.

With the need for mop-up and hand line work increasing here, firefighting forces have begun rotating in and out of Service at the fire. Four 20 person hand crews are arriving to bolster the effectiveness of the effort. This will bring the total number of people working on the fire to about 145. Several large water units are being demobilized, reducing that number to 9. The number of dozers has been reduced to 2.

In the first 2½ days of the fire, most of the suppression effort came from personnel from several agencies in the upper peninsula, most from the west end, but several overhead staff from as far east as Newberry, and all through pre-arranged agreements. This is changing as hand crews arrive from Missouri, Colorado, and Indiana.

Weather for today is should be partly cloudy. The temperature is only predicted to reach 57 degrees with a relative humidity of 45%. Winds are expected to reach 5-10 mph out of the NE. This should provide another good day to make progress on the fire before the predicted warmer drier weather moves in later in the week.

To aid in access for suppression forces, a temporary portable bridge provided by the Ottawa National Forest, is being installed by fire personnel over a small tributary of the Sturgeon River. Plans are also underway to identify areas in need of rehabilitation from the impacts of fire and suppression efforts.

Agencies who continue to be involved in the fire include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan State Police, Covington and L'Anse Volunteer Fire Departments, Covington Ambulance, Baraga County Emergency Management, American Red Cross as well as local volunteers. Incident Commander Paul Gaberdiel continues to head up the effort and leads a DNR fire overhead team in suppression efforts on this fire. More forest service support personnel are integrating into the overhead team to strengthen the recordkeeping efforts.

To date, no structures have been damaged from the fire. No civilian or firefighter injuries have been sustained. No further evacuations have been needed since those ordered and released on the first day. Fire suppression efforts continue to be very active. Residents and the general public are still requested to avoid the fire area and allow firefighters and their equipment to accomplish necessary fire suppression tasks.

Residents are reminded that the fire danger remains high. Fire permits are required for any outdoor burning. These may be obtained online at the website [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit) or by phone at 1 800 922 2876. Even with issued burning permits, residents are reminded to use extreme caution with any outdoor burning. Residents are also reminded that there are a number of activities that they can accomplish around their properties to protect their dwellings. Firewise activities and concepts can be adopted by residents that can increase their personal safety and the safety of their homes and buildings. More Firewise information can be obtained from Michigan State University Extension Offices and from the Firewise website at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).